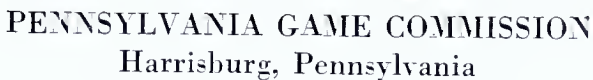


DOCUMENTS SECTION



# THE PYMATUNING

## Pymatuning Reservoir Project

Purpose—Flood control and flow regulation of the Shenango and Ohio rivers.

First land acquired in 1913.

Upper reservoir gates closed December 5, 1933.

Lower reservoir gates closed January 23, 1934.

Total area 25,000 acres—17,000 acres water and 8,000 acres land.

Lake 16 miles long, 1.6 miles average width. Maximum width 2.2 miles.

Shore line 70 miles, largest water area in Pennsylvania.

Tributary drainage area 160 square miles.

Capacity 64,275,000.000 gallons. Maximum depth 35 feet.

The name Pymatuning is of Indian origin, meaning "Crooked-mouthed man's dwelling place."

## Wildlife Refuge

Purpose—To furnish migratory waterfowl a protected location in which to feed, rest, and nest in their flights North and South. Only one of its kind in Pennsylvania.

Established 1935, situated on the "Atlantic Flyway."

Total area 3,670 acres—Water area 2,500 and land area 1,170 acres.

Twenty-two islands in refuge which furnish excellent nesting sites.

Ford Island comprises 103.3 acres on which is located the Land Management Game Protectors dwelling and the museum.

Outside boundary of refuge 13½ miles, containing much shore line suitable for nesting areas.

## Migratory Waterfowl and Shore Birds

Many waterfowl and shore birds find the area a haven of rest during their spring and fall migrations. As many as 70,000 ducks have been observed during a single day during the height of the migration.

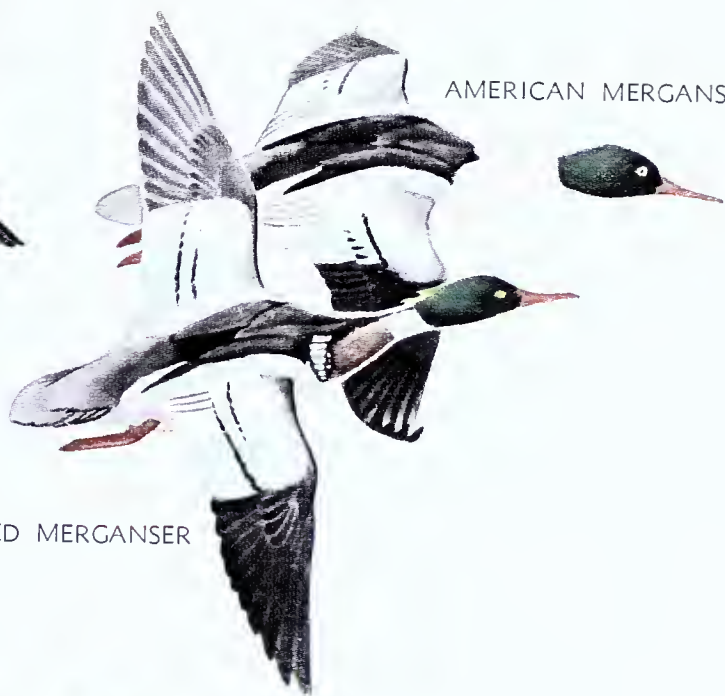
Many unusual nesting records were made at the Pymatuning during the first year or two following its establishment. Among these were verified records of the nesting of the ruddy duck, redhead, ring-necked duck, and the shoveller. Pymatuning still has a nesting population of mallards, black ducks, blue-winged teal, and wood ducks, but its greatest value is as a resting and feeding area for migrating birds.

In addition to wild waterfowl many ring-necked pheasants, quail, and ruffed grouse are found around the shore of the refuge area. Bald eagles have nested in the area for many years. During the summer months many American egrets visit the shore line of the lake and fifty or more have been seen roosting in the area on summer evenings.

More than 250 species of birds have been recorded for the Pymatuning area.



BUFFLEHEAD

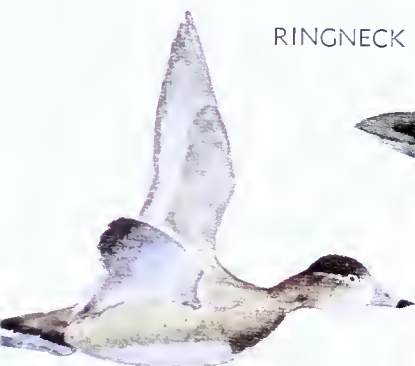


AMERICAN MERGANSER

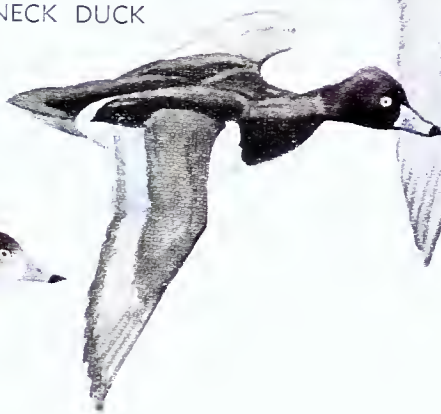
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER



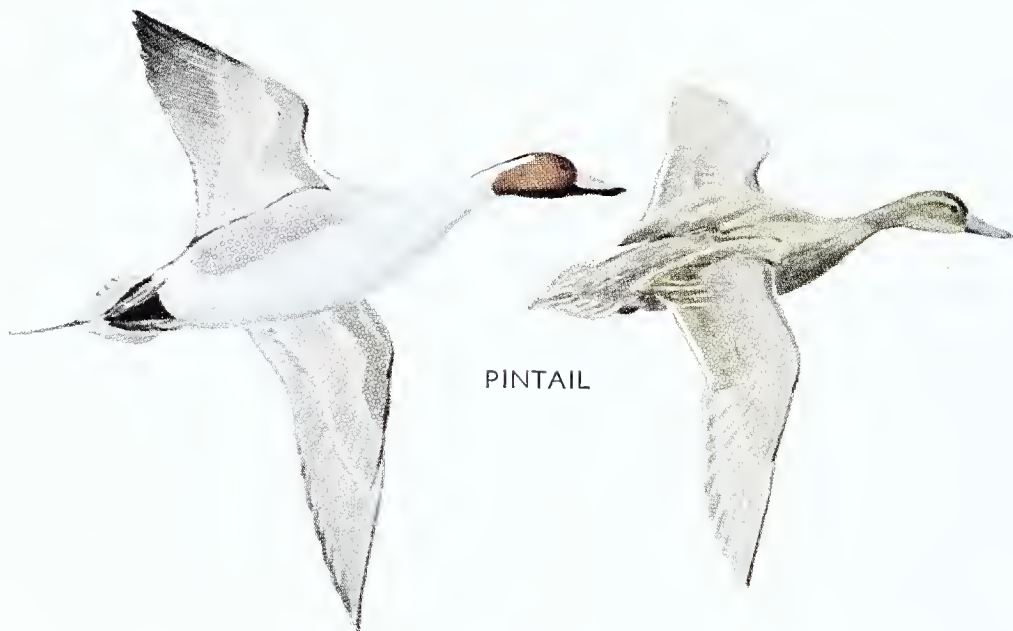
GOLDEN-EYE



RINGNECK DUCK



REDHEAD



PINTAIL



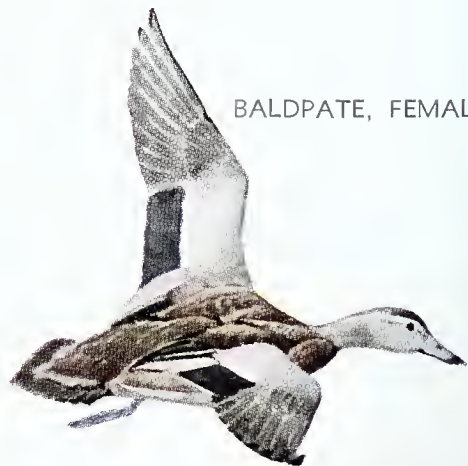
CANVASBACK



GADWALL



BALDPATE, MALE



BALDPATE, FEMALE



GREEN-WINGED TEAL



BLACK DUCK



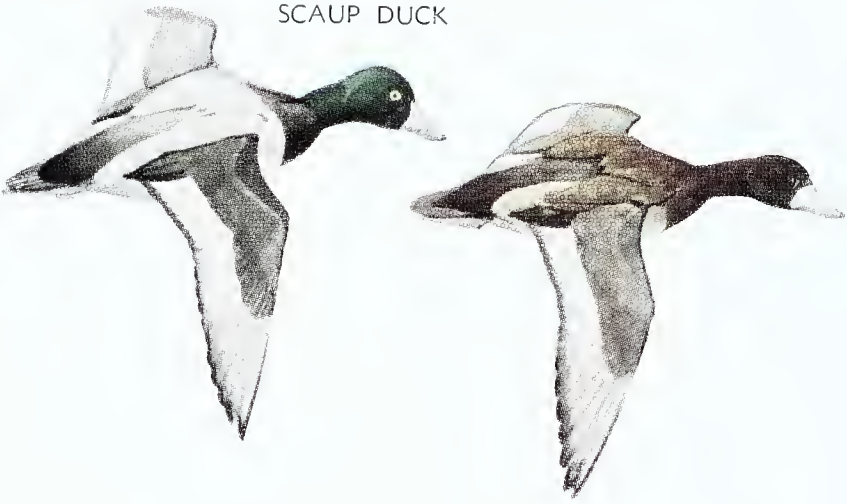
BLUE-WINGED TEAL



SHOVELLER

WOOD DUCK

SCAUP DUCK



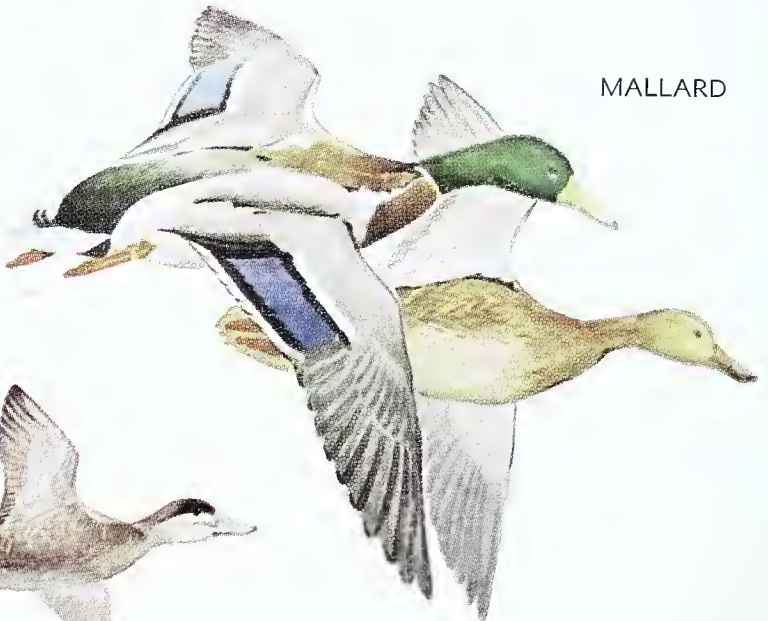
HOODED MERGANSER



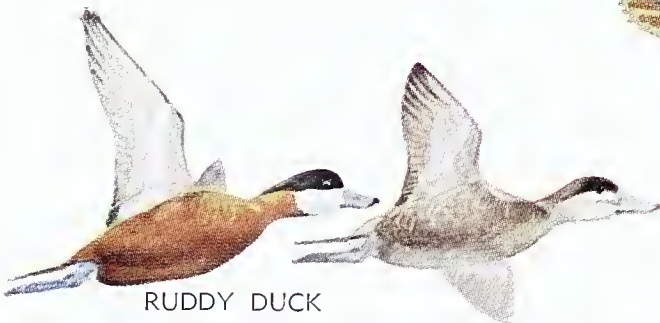
OLD-SQUAW



MALLARD



RUDDY DUCK



## Wildlife Food

Several species of aquatic plants which are important as waterfowl foods are present in the area. These include the pondweeds, coontail, and water-weed (*Anacharis*). In addition the marsh areas have good stands of smartweeds, rice cut-grass, and various sedges and rushes which are relished by waterfowl.

To supplement the natural food supply already present experiments have been conducted, and considerable success attained, by lowering the level of the refuge lake each spring and planting the exposed flats with wild duck millet and smartweed seed. In late summer, after the plants mature their seed, the level of the water is again raised to make the food supply available to waterfowl.

To further augment the food supply several patches of buckwheat, wheat, and corn are planted each year. Part of this is harvested to feed waterfowl during the winter and during the spring migration, the rest is left in the fields for the birds to consume. The wheat fields are particularly attractive to geese as these birds are very fond of the green leaves.

## Museum

The museum was constructed and is being maintained by the Pennsylvania Game Commission for the display of mounted specimens of the wild waterfowl, marsh, and shore birds that visit the Pymatuning region. It was completed and opened to the public on October 15, 1938. The exhibit now contains nearly 300 mounted specimens, representing over 65 species of birds, and additions are made from time to time. Most of the species are shown in flight as well as standing, thus enabling one to study the characteristic markings shown when the birds are flying. Practically all of the specimens were collected on or near the area.

The public is cordially invited to visit the museum. Admission is free. Parking facilities are available. Thousands of people from all over the country, and many from foreign lands, visit it each year.

The museum is open daily from May 1 to October 31 from 10:00 A. M. to 7:00 P. M. During the month of November it is open *by appointment only* to groups.

# Waterfowl, Marsh, and Shore Birds of the Pymatuning Region

B	X	Common Loon	A	Surf Scoter
A		Red-throated Loon	B(C) X	Ruddy Duck
A		Holboell's Grebe	B	X Hooded Merganser
B(C) X		Horned Grebe	B	X American Merganser
C	X	Pied-billed Grebe	B	X Red-breasted Merganser
A		White Pelican	B(C)	King Rail
B	X	Double-crested Cormorant	C	X Virginia Rail
A	X	Great White Heron	C	X Sora
C	X	Great Blue Heron	C	X Florida Gallinule
B	X	American Egret	C	X American Coot
A	X	Snowy Egret	B	X Semipalmated Plover
A		Little Blue Heron	C	X Killdeer
C	X	Eastern Green Heron	A	Golden Plover
C	X	Black-crowned Night Heron	B	X Black-bellied Plover
C	X	American Bittern	B	X Ruddy Turnstone
C	X	Eastern Least Bittern	C	X American Woodcock
B	X	Whistling Swan	C	X Wilson's Snipe
C	X	Canada Goose	A	Hudsonian Curlew
A		American Brant	C	X Upland Plover
A	X	Lesser Snow Goose	C	X Spotted Sandpiper
A	X	Blue Goose	B	X Eastern Solitary Sandpiper
C	X	Mallard	A	Western Willet
C	X	Black Duck	B	X Greater Yellow-legs
B(C) X		Gadwall	B	X Lesser Yellow-legs
A		European Widgeon	B	X Pectoral Sandpiper
B(C) X		Baldpate	A	White-rumped Sandpiper
B(C) X		Pintail	A	Baird's Sandpiper
A		European Teal	B	X Least Sandpiper
B	X	Green-winged Teal	B	X Red-backed Sandpiper
C	X	Blue-winged Teal	B	X Eastern Dowitcher
B(C) X		Shoveller	A	X Stilt Sandpiper
C	X	Wood Duck	B	X Semipalmated Sandpiper
B(C) X		Redhead	B	Western Sandpiper
B(C) X		Ring-necked Duck	A	X Buff-breasted Sandpiper
B	X	Canvasback	A	X Sanderling
A	X	Greater Scaup	A	Northern Phalarope
B	X	Lesser Scaup	B	X Herring Gull
B	X	American Golden-eye	B	X Ring-billed Gull
B	X	Bufflehead	B	Bonaparte's Gull
B	X	Old Squaw	B	X Common Tern
A	X	White-winged Scoter	B	X Caspian Tern
A		American Scoter	C	X Black Tern

A—RARE MIGRANT OR ACCIDENTAL

B—MIGRANT

C—NESTS IN REGION. IF IN PARENTHESES ( ) RARELY

X—SPECIMEN IN MUSEUM